

GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUMMARY ON AGING

1. Home & Community Based Care. Restores \$750,000 the first year and \$850,000 the second year of biennium for home and community based care through area agencies on aging (such as transportation, in-home care, adult day health, care coordination, congregate meals, home-delivered meals and respite care). Funding for area agencies on aging was reduced by \$1.4 million each year in 2002-2004 biennium.

2. Public Guardianship. Adds \$110,000 first year and \$250,000 second year to establish five new Public Guardian and Conservator Programs in unserved areas. These funds were in Governor's budget. The General Assembly's budget eliminates the language that made the additional funding contingent on passage of the Governor's tax plan.

3. Prescription Drugs. Provides \$125,000 per year of the biennium to the Virginia Health Care Foundation to solicit proposals to expand Pharmacy Connection software program to unserved or underserved regions of state. A second amendment on prescription drugs restores \$35,000 each year to the Pharmacy Connect Program in Southwest Virginia. A third amendment on prescription drugs provides \$75,000 each year to the Virginia Health Care Foundation to support establishment of the Rx Partnership, a public-private partnership to increase access to prescription medication for the state's low-income, uninsured population.

4. Personal Care. Provides \$3,000,000 in the second year of the biennium to increase personal care reimbursement rates under community-based Medicaid waiver programs by 5%.

5. Auxiliary Grant. Adds \$2.2 million in second year of biennium to increase current monthly auxiliary grant rate for assisted living from \$866 to \$894 (higher in Northern Virginia).

6. Nursing Home Reimbursement Rate. Removes budget language that made an increase of \$3.00 per day for nursing homes contingent on passage of the Governor's tax proposal.

7. Care Management. Directs DMAS to restore the elderly case management services to the State Medicaid Plan.

8. Caregivers Grant. Adds \$50,000 each year for the Caregivers Grant Program (which provides up to \$500 per year for caregivers with income under \$50,000 and who provide unreimbursed care).

Source: Compiled by the Northern Virginia Aging Network, May 2004